IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A cross media error protection system for multimedia data having a plurality of media streams of different type, the system comprising: a packaging system for packaging the multimedia data into discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a plurality of fields, and wherein data segments from each of the media streams are placed into different ones of the plurality of fields; and an insertion system for inserting error protection data into one of the plurality of fields in each packet.

2. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, wherein a size of each of the plurality of fields is proportional to a size of each of the plurality of media streams.

3. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, wherein a size of each of the plurality of fields is set at predetermined proportions.

4. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, graphics, and text.

5. (Original) The cross media error protection system of claim 1, further comprising a decoder for decoding the discrete packets of multimedia data.

6. (Original) An encoder for packaging multimedia data having a first and a second type of media stream, comprising: means for receiving the multimedia data; and means for packaging the multimedia data into discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a first field for holding a segment of the first type of media, a second field for

hold a segment of the second type of media stream, and a third field for holding error protection data; wherein the sizes of the first and second field are proportional to the sizes of the first and second media stream.

7. (Original) The encoder of claim 6, wherein the first and second type of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, text, and graphics.

8. (Original) A decoder for unpackaging multimedia data having a first and a second media stream of different type, the decoder comprising: means for receiving multimedia data; and means for reading the multimedia data from discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a first field having a segment from the first media stream, a second field having a segment from the second media stream, and a third field having error protection data; wherein the sizes of the first and second field are proportional to the sizes of the first and second media stream.

9. (Original) The decoder of claim 8, wherein the first and second type of media streams are selected from the group consisting of audio, video, text, and graphics.

10. (Original) A method for providing cross media error protection for multimedia data, the method comprising: receiving multimedia data having a plurality of media streams, each of a different type; determining a size of each media stream; packaging the multimedia data into a plurality of discrete packets, wherein each discrete packet includes a data segment from each of the media streams, and wherein a size of each packet is proportional to the size of each media stream; and inserting error protection data into each packet.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the discrete packets have a same size.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, comprising the further step of transmitting the discrete packets.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, comprising the further step of decoding the discrete packets back into the plurality of media streams.

14. (Original) A program product stored on a recordable media for providing cross media error protection for multimedia data, the program product comprising: program code configured to receive multimedia data having a plurality of media streams, each of a different type; program code configured to determine a size of each media stream; program code configured to package the multimedia data into a plurality of discrete packets, wherein each discrete packet includes a data segment from each of the media streams, and wherein a size of each packet is proportional to the size of each media stream; and program code configured to insert error protection data into each packet.

15. (Original) The program product of claim 14, where the size of each media stream is determined over a predetermined interval of time.

16. (Original) The program product of claim 14, where the size of each media stream is estimated.